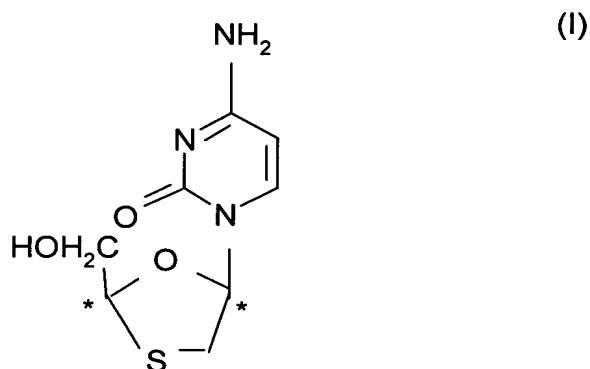


**AMENDMENTS/ADDITIONS TO THE CLAIMS:**

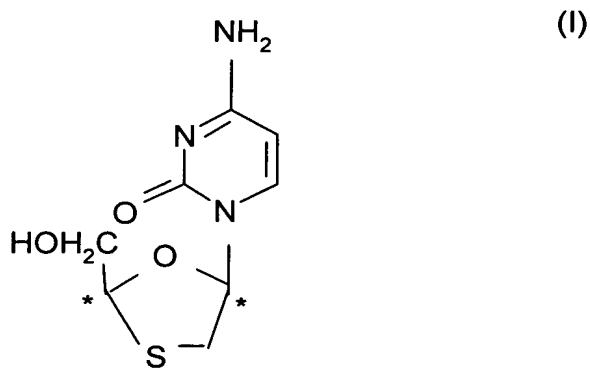
**Amend claims 1, 10 and 12, as follows:**

**1. (Currently Amended)** A method for the treatment of hepatitis B infection, in a mammal, including a human, suffering from hepatitis B infection, comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



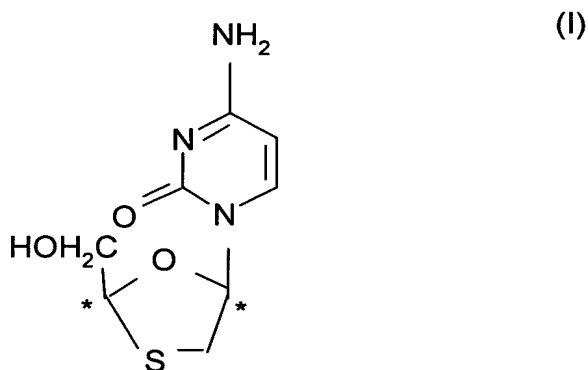
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or salt of an ester thereof to said mammal.

**10. (Currently Amended)** A method for the treatment of hepatitis B infection, in a human, suffering from hepatitis B infection, comprising administering to said human an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or salt of an ester thereof.

**12. (Currently Amended)** A method for the treatment of hepatitis B infection, in a human, suffering from hepatitis B infection, comprising administering to said human an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**15. (Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 13, comprising administering [a compound of the formula (I)] (-)-cis-4-amino-1-(2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-yl)-(1H)-pyrimidin-2-one.

**Add the following new claims:**

**16. (New)** The method according to claim 11, wherein the (-)-cis-4-amino-1-(2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-yl)-(1H)-pyrimidin-2-one or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is substantially free of the corresponding (+)-enantiomer.

**17. (New)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the (-)-cis-4-amino-1-(2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-yl)-(1H)-pyrimidin-2-one or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is substantially free of the corresponding (+)-enantiomer.

18. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the (-)-cis-4-amino-1-(2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-yl)-(1H)-pyrimidin-2-one is substantially free of the corresponding (+)-enantiomer.

**STATUS OF CLAIMS AND SUPPORT FOR CLAIM CHANGES 37 C.F.R. §1.173(C)**

Patent claims 1-9 are pending in this application.

Added claims 10-18 are pending in this application.

Support for the changes to claims 1, 10 and 12 is found throughout the patent specification, for example, see the first, second and second from last paragraphs of col. 1 of the original '246 patent.

Support for the change to claim 15 is evident in the claim language itself. It merely provides a clarification in view of its dependence on claim 13. There is also ample support throughout the patent disclosure.

Support for the added claims 16-18 is found in the patent specification at col. 2, lines 42-46, and in original patent claim 5.